

In the Claims

1. (currently amended) A picture frame assembly with a storage compartment comprising:

a picture frame, said picture frame including a front surface, a rear surface and an aperture in said front surface defining a display area, said display area configured to receive and retain a picture therein;

a the storage compartment having a rear wall and side walls extending upwardly from said rear wall, said rear wall and said side walls cooperating to define an interior cavity, an aperture in said side wall, said aperture allowing access to said interior cavity to allow a user to place objects therein, and a closure element configured to be received adjacent said aperture ~~an interior cavity~~, said storage compartment received adjacent said rear surface of said picture frame; and

means for attaching said storage compartment to said rear surface of said picture frame such that said storage compartment can be slideably removed from said picture frame.

2. (canceled)

3. (currently amended) The picture frame assembly of claim 1 ~~claim 2~~, wherein said closure element is a binder rail with photo storage pages attached thereto, said photo storage pages extending through said aperture into said interior cavity when said closure element is installed adjacent said aperture.

4. (canceled)

5. (currently amended) The picture frame assembly of claim 3 ~~claim 4~~, wherein said binder rail is retained in said aperture by magnets in said binder rail ~~include first and second magnets at said first and second ends respectively, said magnets retaining said first and second ends of said binder rail in said first and second seats.~~

6. (original) The picture frame assembly of claim 1, said means for attaching said storage compartment further comprising: a pair of mounting rails, said mounting rails fastened in parallel spaced relation to said rear surface of said picture frame; and a

corresponding pair of receiver channels formed along two parallel edges of said storage compartment, said receiver channels being slideably received into said mounting channels to retain said storage compartment adjacent said rear surface of said picture frame.

7. (currently amended) The picture frame assembly of claim 6, said storage compartment further comprising:

~~a storage compartment having~~ a rear wall and side walls extending upwardly from said rear wall, said rear wall and said side walls cooperating to define an interior cavity; an aperture in said side wall, said aperture allowing access to said interior cavity to allow a user to place objects therein; and

a closure element configured to be received adjacent said aperture.

8. (original) The picture frame assembly of claim 7, wherein said closure element is a binder rail with photo storage pages attached thereto, said photo storage pages extending through said aperture into said interior cavity when said closure element is installed adjacent said aperture.

9. (canceled)

10. (currently amended) The picture frame assembly of claim 8 ~~claim 9~~, wherein said binder rail is retained in said aperture by magnets in said binder rail ~~include first and second magnets at said first and second ends respectively, said magnets retaining said first and second ends of said binder rail in said first and second seats.~~

11. (currently amended) A storage assembly for use with a picture frame having a rear surface, said storage assembly comprising:

a storage compartment having a rear wall and side walls extending upwardly from said rear wall, said rear wall and said side walls cooperating to define an interior cavity, an aperture in said side wall, said aperture allowing access to said interior cavity to allow a user to place objects therein, and a closure element configured to be received adjacent said aperture, said storage compartment received adjacent said rear surface of said picture frame; and

means for attaching said storage compartment to said rear surface of said picture frame such that said storage compartment can be slideably removed from said picture frame.

12. (original) The storage assembly of claim 11, said means for attaching said storage compartment further comprising:

a pair of mounting rails, said mounting rails fastened in parallel spaced relation to said rear surface of said picture frame; and

a corresponding pair of receiver channels formed along two parallel edges of said side wall, said receiver channels being slideably received into said mounting channels to retain said storage compartment adjacent said rear surface of said picture frame.

13. (canceled)

14. (currently amended) The storage assembly of claim 12 ~~claim 13~~, wherein said closure element is a binder rail with photo storage pages attached thereto, said photo storage pages extending through said aperture into said interior cavity when said closure element is installed adjacent said aperture.

15. (canceled)

16. (currently amended) The storage assembly of claim 14 ~~claim 15~~, wherein said binder rail is retained in said aperture by magnets in said binder rail ~~include first and second magnets at said first and second ends respectively, said magnets retaining said first and second ends of said binder rail in said first and second seats.~~

17. (currently amended) A picture frame assembly with an integrated storage compartment comprising:

a perimeter rail member having a front wall and side walls extending rearwardly from said front wall, said perimeter rail defining an interior display area, said display area configured to receive and retain a picture therein, at least two of said side walls in parallel spaced relation and including mounting channels formed along rear edges thereof;

a storage compartment having a rear wall and side walls extending upwardly from said rear wall, said rear wall and said side walls cooperating to define an interior cavity, said side walls of said storage compartment including a corresponding pair of receiver channels formed along two parallel edges of said side wall, said receiver channels being slideably received into said mounting channels to retain said storage compartment adjacent said rear surface of said picture frame;

an aperture in said side wall of said storage compartment, said aperture allowing access to said interior cavity to allow a user to place objects therein; and

a closure element configured to be received adjacent said aperture.

18. (canceled)

19. (currently amended) The picture frame assembly of claim 18, wherein said closure element is a binder rail with photo storage pages attached thereto, said photo storage pages extending through said aperture into said interior cavity when said closure element is installed adjacent said aperture.

20. (currently amended) The picture frame assembly of claim 19, further comprising:

~~first and second seat formed at opposing ends of said aperture, said seats configured to receive a first and second end of said binder rail; and~~

~~first and second magnets at said first and second ends of said binder rail respectively, said magnets retaining said first and second ends of said binder rail in said aperture~~ first and second seats.